

Claims

- [c1] d1. A method of using a wheel lift towing vehicle to carry vehicles as a vehicle-carrying towing vehicle, comprising the steps of:
mating a modular vehicle carrier comprising a tow bed of sufficient dimension and constitution to carry at least one automotive vehicle thereupon, with a wheel lift device of said wheel lift towing vehicle;
tilting said tow bed into a position for vehicle loading and unloading by raising said wheel lift device; and
tilting said tow bed into a position for travel by lowering said wheel lift device.
- [c2] 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
when said tow bed is in said position for travel, causing said tow bed and any vehicles thereon to travel using said wheel lift device as a hitch therefor.
- [c3] 3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
loading a vehicle onto said tow bed when said tow bed is in said position for vehicle loading and unloading;
causing said tow bed and said vehicles thereon to travel using said wheel lift towing vehicle, when said tow bed is in said position for travel; and
unloading said vehicle from said tow bed when said tow bed is in said position for vehicle loading and unloading.
- [c4] 4. The method of claim 3, the step of traveling using said wheel lift towing vehicle further comprising the step of:
causing said tow bed and any vehicles thereon to travel using said wheel lift device as a hitch therefor.
- [c5] 5. The method of claim 1, said step of tilting further comprising:
tilting said tow bed into said position for travel about a wheel axle positioned such that raising said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed into said position for vehicle loading and unloading and lowering said wheel lift device.
- [c6] 6. The method of claim 2, said step of tilting further comprising:
tilting said tow bed into said position for travel about a wheel axle positioned such that raising said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed into said position for

vehicle loading and unloading and lowering said wheel lift device.

- [c7] 7. The method of claim 2, the step of traveling further comprising:
moving said mated wheel lift device by similarly moving said tow bed, using
tires secured to a wheel axle.
- [c8] 8. The method of claim 4, the step of traveling further comprising:
moving said mated wheel lift device by similarly moving said tow bed, using
tires secured to said wheel axle.
- [c9] 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
maintaining a region of said tow bed forward of a bend in said tow bed
substantially parallel to a road when said tow bed is in said position for travel,
and substantially contacting a rear end of said tow bed aft of said bend to said
road when said tow bed is in said position for loading and unloading, when said
module vehicle carrier is attached to tires thereof via a wheel axle of said
modular vehicle carrier, by a positioning and angling of said bend, and by
locating said bend proximate said wheel axle.
- [c10] 10. The method of claim 1, said step of mating comprising:
securing at least one tow leg to said wheel lift device using securing means for
securing said tow leg to said wheel lift device.
- [c11] 11. The method of claim 10, said step of securing:
substantially preventing said at least one tow leg from moving laterally relative
to said wheel lift device, using lateral securing means therefor; and
substantially preventing said at least one tow leg from moving vertically relative
to said wheel lift device using vertical securing means therefor.
- [c12] 12. The method of claim 11:
the step of preventing lateral movement comprising securely connecting a first
said tow leg with a first end of said wheel lift device comprising a "T" bar, and a
second said tow leg with a second end of said "T" bar, using lateral securing
means therefor; and
the step of preventing vertical movement comprising connecting at least one
securing apparatus from a first position on at least one of said tow legs,

securely beneath said "T" bar, to a second position on said at least one of said tow legs, using vertical securing means therefor.

- [c13] 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
sufficiently dimensioning and constituting said tow bed to carry at least two automotive vehicles thereupon.
- [c14] 14. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:
sufficiently dimensioning and constituting said tow bed to carry at least two automotive vehicles thereupon.
- [c15] 15. The method of claim 1, said step of mating said modular vehicle carrier with said wheel lift device of said wheel lift towing vehicle further comprising the step of mating said modular vehicle carrier with said wheel lift device of a conventional tow truck.
- [c16] 16. The method of claim 1, said step of mating said modular vehicle carrier with said wheel lift device of said wheel lift towing vehicle further comprising the step of mating said modular vehicle carrier with said wheel lift device of a vehicle comprising said wheel lift device.
- [c17] 17. A modular vehicle carrier apparatus comprising:
a tow bed of sufficient dimension and constitution to carry at least one automotive vehicle thereupon;
wheel lift mating means for mating said tow bed with a wheel lift device of a wheel lift towing vehicle; and
tilting means for enabling the mated wheel lift device to tilt said tow bed into a position for vehicle loading and unloading by raising said wheel lift device, and for enabling said wheel lift device to tilt said tow bed into a position for travel by lowering said wheel lift device.
- [c18] 18. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
travel means for enabling the mated wheel lift device to cause said tow bed and any vehicles thereon to travel as a hitch therefor, when said tow bed is in said position for travel.

- [c19] 19. The apparatus of claim 17, said tilting means comprising:
a wheel axle positioned such that raising said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed about said axle into said position for vehicle loading and unloading and lowering said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed about said axle into said position for travel.
- [c20] 20. The apparatus of claim 18, said tilting means comprising:
a wheel axle positioned such that raising said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed about said axle into said position for vehicle loading and unloading and lowering said wheel lift device tilts said tow bed about said axle into said position for travel.
- [c21] 21. The apparatus of claim 18, said travel means comprising:
tires secured to a wheel axle such that moving said mated wheel lift device similarly moves said tow bed.
- [c22] 22. The apparatus of claim 20, said travel means comprising:
tires secured to said wheel axle such that moving said mated wheel lift device similarly moves said tow bed.
- [c23] 23. The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
a bend in said tow bed positioned and angled, and located proximate a wheel axle of said modular vehicle carrier, such that a region of said tow bed forward of said bend is substantially parallel to a road when said tow bed is in said position for travel and a rear end of said tow bed aft of said bend substantially contacts said road when said tow bed is in said position for loading and unloading, when said module vehicle carrier is attached to tires thereof via said wheel axle.
- [c24] 24. The apparatus of claim 17, said wheel lift mating means comprising:
at least one tow leg securing to said wheel lift device using securing means for securing said tow leg to said wheel lift device.
- [c25] 25. The apparatus of claim 24, said securing means comprising:
lateral securing means for substantially preventing said at least one tow leg from moving laterally relative to said wheel lift device; and

vertical securing means for substantially preventing said at least one tow leg from moving vertically relative to said wheel lift device.

[c26] 26. The apparatus of claim 25, said wheel lift device comprising a "T" bar, and said at least one tow leg comprising at least two tow legs:
said lateral securing means comprising a secure connection between a first said tow leg and a first end of said "T" bar, and between a second said tow leg and a second end of said "T" bar; and
said vertical securing means comprising at least one securing apparatus connected from a first position on at least one of said tow legs, securely beneath said "T" bar, to a second position on said at least one of said tow legs.

[c27] 27. The apparatus of claim 17, said tow bed further comprising sufficient dimension and constitution to carry at least two automotive vehicles thereupon.

[c28] 28. The apparatus of claim 23, said tow bed further comprising sufficient dimension and constitution to carry at least two automotive vehicles thereupon.

[c29] 29. The apparatus of claim 17, in combination with said wheel lift towing vehicle, further comprising:
said wheel lift towing vehicle;
said wheel lift device; and
a mated connection between said tow bed and wheel lift device.

[c30] 30. The apparatus of claim 29, said wheel lift towing vehicle comprising a conventional tow truck.

[c31] 31. The apparatus of claim 29, said wheel lift towing vehicle comprising a vehicle comprising said wheel lift device.